

An international affair

JMU men's basketball isn't afraid to go overseas to find the best talent

By **DANIEL WARE**
The Breeze

JMU men's basketball is enjoying its winningest season in three years after clinching its 20th win Saturday. But there's several things that may seem a bit foreign.

Internationally born players on the Dukes' roster are responsible for nearly 40 percent of the team's scoring per game and grab about 50 percent of the team's rebounds per game.

Junior forward Tom Vodanovich, born in New Zealand, has started every game for JMU this season, averaging 5.9 points per game on 51 percent shooting, 4.4 rebounds per game and nearly 25 minutes per game — good for fourth most on the team.

"The pace of the game is a lot quicker over here," Vodanovich said. "Players are more skilled and they're bigger dudes over here, but all in all it's still the same game, I think."

Vodanovich played basketball in high school at St. Patrick's College in New Zealand. After he graduated, he came to the U.S. and played at Spire Academy, a prep school in Geneva, Ohio. He met one of JMU's assistant coaches for the first time at a tournament in Florida.

"[Recruiting] was a lot more intense than I first expected," Vodanovich said. "It's their job [to recruit players] over here. In New Zealand, basketball is another game."

How does the coaching staff identify international players to recruit?

"A lot of it is done either through email or YouTube, but the phone is the quickest and easiest way to create and develop a relationship," head



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Junior forward Paulius Satkus hails from Lithuania and is one of JMU's five internationally born players.

coach Matt Brady said. "When we identify that there may be some mutual interest, YouTube is a way to see guys on tape in game situations." The staff does travel overseas to see the players sometimes, but it does as much homework as it can on the player beforehand to make sure it's worth the trip.

"After we've done a lot of work, we make

certain that, academically, it makes sense, and then we have to have some video to eyeball these guys to see their size, skill and athletic ability," Brady said.

Brady himself hasn't gone overseas on a recruiting trip, but some coaches have. The head coach noted how he and the other coaches found each player has a different story.

"Ivan Lukic from Serbia came to a prep school in Iowa and we saw him play in D.C.," Brady said. "Dimitrije Cabarkapa [from Serbia], who we'd already started the recruiting process with, as luck would have it, was coming to Richmond to stay for about 30 days. So we were the first school to identify him when he got stateside."

Brady was tipped off to junior forward Paulius Satkus by a friend who had knowledge of Satkus as a young player in Lithuania. After contact with the coaching staff through email while Satkus was at Barking Abbey School, a prep school in England, he took an official visit to JMU where he committed.

"It was a good level of academics combined with a good basketball environment," Satkus said. "Convo is popping most of the time."

Satkus also said that being offered play basketball in the U.S. and go to school at the same time was a "dream come true."

Satkus started the first three games of the season, but has since been one of the Brady's first players off of the bench, averaging 3.8 points per game, 3.3 rebounds per game and 15 minutes per game with reliable defense that doesn't show up in the box score.

see **ROSTER**, page 10

Zika virus hits close to home

One person was confirmed infected in Harrisonburg after trip abroad

Virginia

Three confirmed cases (Northern Virginia, Williamsburg and Harrisonburg)

United States

Cases in 20 states including Washington, D.C.

Worldwide

Cases overall: 82

Information according to the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC

KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

By **MAKENA RAFFERTY-LEWIS**
The Breeze

At the beginning of this month, the CDC verified that a resident of Harrisonburg had contracted the Zika virus while on a trip to Guatemala.

Dr. Stephen Rodgers, the medical director at the JMU University Health Center, said that although there's only one case of confirmed Zika in Harrisonburg and about 50 throughout the U.S., there has yet to be a case where the virus originated in the country.

Dr. Parag Patel, an infectious disease specialist at Sentara RMH Medical Center, said that, because Zika is spread by the mosquito, it has a minimal chance of spreading locally in the U.S.

"We are not expecting an outbreak," Patel said.

Heather Baker is the 41-year-old resident of Harrisonburg who contracted the Zika virus while she was on a mission trip to Guatemala in November.

"I returned home on the 29th of November and by the 2nd of December I was presenting with symptoms," Baker said.

Baker originally thought she had a virus called Chikungunya, which has many symptoms in common with the Zika virus.

"I went to a local urgent care facility and was tested and that came back negative," Baker said.

"And at the point that the test was returned I was in contact with the people in Guatemala and they said that the virus was present there."

Baker said that she endured a month of Zika symptoms before she was finally advised to go to the Rockingham Harrisonburg Health Department.

Jason Good, the director of study abroad at JMU, said some countries are taking preventive measures to decrease the number of mosquito bites and the spread of Zika.

"I think El Salvador had the most recommendations about that," Good said.

The Zika virus is transmitted through mosquitos to humans and other primates. The spread of this virus began in May 2015 and is mainly found in Central and South America and Africa.

According to Rodgers, the Zika virus originated in monkeys in 1947.

"Most people have symptoms for a week or 10 days, then usually they do fine," Patel said.

Rodgers said that the most common of the Zika symptoms include fever, red eyes or conjunctivitis, a non-distinct rash and joint pain. Rodgers also said that 80 percent of people who get the virus don't know they have it because they don't have symptoms.

Despite what many doctors are saying,

see **ZIKA**, page 4

Student death investigated

Junior remembered as having an 'infectious personality'

By **GRACE THOMPSON**
contributing writer

A 21-year-old junior engineering student and brother of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Austin Underhill, passed away Sunday at the fraternity's house on South Main Street. The Harrisonburg Police Department is currently investigating.

According to Bill Wyatt, JMU's director of communications and university spokesman, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will conduct its own investigation to determine if any violations of its standards of conduct occurred.

According to multiple reports, the HPD has said a substance known as poppy tea is involved in the investigation. In a press release sent out on Tuesday, the department described poppy tea as a solution "derived from commonly available household products, including poppy seeds."

Andrew Oakes, a senior biology major at Randolph-Macon College, became friends with Underhill when he moved to Virginia in fourth grade. Underhill was from Fredericksburg.

"He had such an infectious personality that people who knew him loved him and people who didn't know him that well still admired him because of the energy he always brought to a room," Oakes said in a Facebook message.

Oakes recalled a few memories of him and Underhill and how much fun they had together.

"It was spirit week and one of the days was retro/flashback day so everyone wore styles from the '70s, '80s or '90s but Austin had a different interpretation," Oakes said. "He just dressed like an old man and he creepily photobombed everybody's pictures that day."

Oakes reminisced about another fond memory of Underhill. Underhill was in the race to win the "best friends" superlative during his senior year of high school. He and one of his close friends took a picture outside of Wendy's and put it on flyers for their campaign to win the superlative. They held up Frostys in the picture and wrote in their slogan: "Vote for Heppe and Austin, we're straight frostin."

Oakes said he'll miss Underhill's unique personality.

"Austin was always willing to do silly stuff, be spontaneous and have fun," Oakes said. "He was loved by many, especially our group of close friends. He was our brother and we'll miss him so much. We still can't believe this is real and he's gone."

Underhill also minored in mathematics at JMU. According to his obituary, he played soccer growing up and enjoyed working out and playing the piano as well. His funeral service will take place on Friday in Fredericksburg.

CONTACT Grace Thompson at thompsgc@dukes.jmu.edu.

Decades of impact

How one WRTC professor continues to leave his legacy after 43 years

By **JULIA NELSON**
The Breeze

The face of Dos Equis beer can step aside because Mark Hawthorne may be the actual "most interesting man in the world."

Hawthorne has a woodshop, makes quilts, paints, has a stamp collection that takes up an entire room in his house and raises a multitude of animals in his home in Staunton. Not to mention he earned a degree in Greek and English at Wake Forest University while almost completing majors in theology and biology as well.

"My first major was Greek," Hawthorne said. "I liked it because I was the only one who majored in it."

After deciding he didn't want to go into a career related to his Greek major, he picked up an English major. He became interested in

religion as well, which turned into an additional major. The biology came after his fraternity brother was having trouble in his herbology class so Hawthorne took up the subject to help him out.

"I ended up officially with a Greek major and an English major and unofficially with the biology and theology," Hawthorne said.

After graduating from Wake Forest University with nearly four majors, he earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida. He arrived at JMU 43 years ago to head the English department and has been at JMU since.

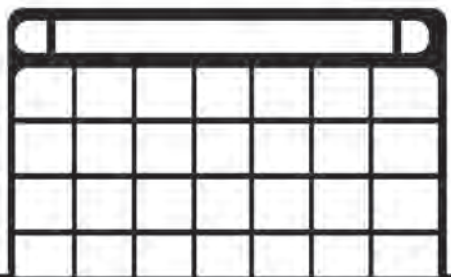
Using his background in graphic design and business, he moved over to become a professor in what was then Technical and Scientific Communication about 20 years ago. Now the



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Mark Hawthorne originally taught English.

see **HAWTHORNE**, page 11



The Breeze

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Event Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 27

- Women in Leadership Conference @ HHS, room 2301, register online, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Watercolor Hand Lettering Workshop with Hannah Johnson @ Spitzer Art Center, \$25, email director to register, 10 a.m. to noon, 1-3 p.m.
- Mark Strandquist: Windows from Prison @ New Image Gallery, Forbes Center, 5-7 p.m. until April 8

Sunday, Feb. 28

- Sunday Brunch @ Jess' Lunch, 10 a.m.
- The Wild Party @ Mainstage Theatre, Forbes Center, regular \$20, students \$13, 3 p.m.
- "With Good Reason" Public Radio Program with Dr. Ken Rutherford @ WMRA, 90.7 FM, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 29

- Maria Magdalena Compos-Pons, Encore Artist @ Duke Hall Gallery, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 6
- Ryan Sallans: Eating Disorders, Body Image and My Trans Identity @ Grafton-Stovall Theatre, 7-8:30 p.m.
- The United States Airmen of Note Concert @ Robert E. Lee High School, free tickets to be picked up at Mrs. Rowe's Restuarant, 7-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25

- Ask a Nurse @ Carrier Library, 2-4 p.m.
- Internship 101 @ Student Success Center, room 3270, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Benefit Reading of: A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer, Writings to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls @ Harrison Hall, room 1261, 7-8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 26

- Diana Wall Lecture: Common Ground, Soil Biodiversity and Sustainability @ Madison Union 256, 11 a.m. to noon
- Food for Thought Brown Bag Lunch & Dessert @ Student Success Center, room 4049, noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous @ Madison Union 311, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 1

- Working with Books on the Front End of Publishing @ Madison Union 305, 3:30-5 p.m.
- JMU Symphonic Band @ Concert Hall, Forbes Center, regular \$10, students \$5, 8 p.m.
- Team Trivia @ Clementine, teams of six or less, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

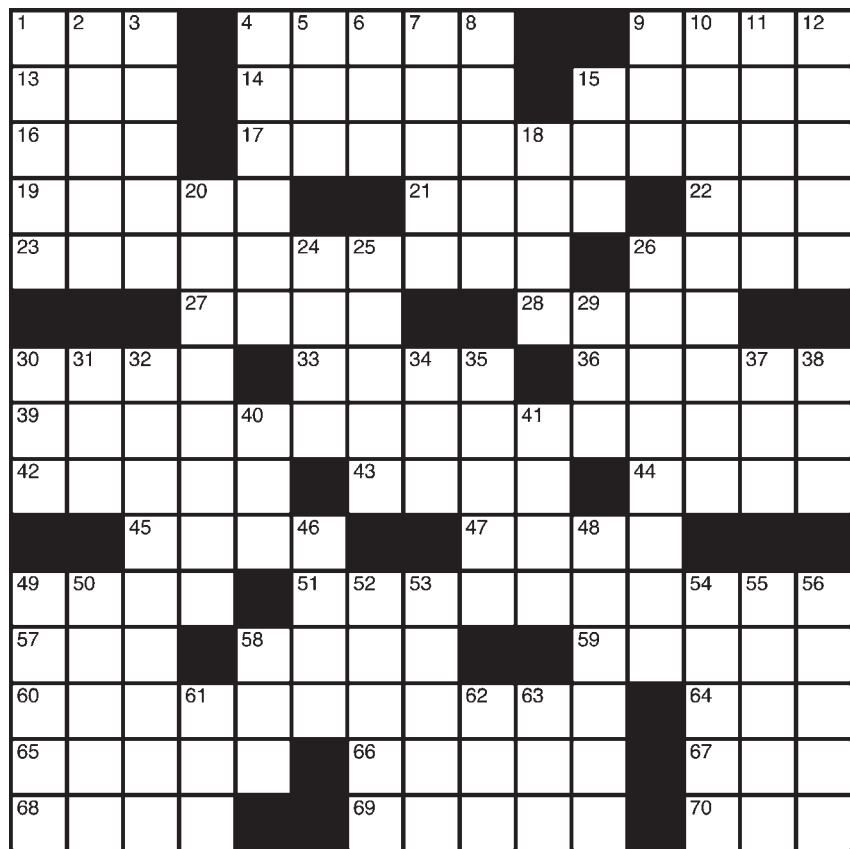
- African Drumming Class @ 17 E Johnson St, 1-3 p.m.
- Philosophy and Film club screening: "Cleo from 5 to 7" @ Jackson Hall, room 1B, 6-9 p.m.
- Internship 101 @ Student Success Center, room 3270, 7-8 p.m.

CARTOON: HAVING A SENIOR MOMENT

This job says I need three years of experience. Do you think a summer internship counts though?

The application process

KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE



By C.C. Burnikel

2/25/16

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Across

- 1 Beach tube letters
- 4 Tube in Paris
- 9 __ butter: cosmetic moisturizer
- 13 Roofing sealant
- 14 Gem weight unit
- 15 Home extension?
- 16 __ standstill
- 17 Intensive study program
- 19 Classic laundry soap
- 21 They're drunk at socials
- 22 Fish in hamo, a Japanese delicacy
- 23 It's the opposite of a flying one
- 26 Auto racer Busch
- 27 "Uh-huh"
- 28 Miscellany
- 30 Faux pas
- 33 Certain king's pride
- 36 Nunavut people
- 39 Mighty clash
- 42 Simple type of question
- 43 "Good one!"
- 44 Dumped, perhaps
- 45 Sister brand of the Sensor razor
- 47 "You've found the right person"
- 49 D.C. bigwigs
- 51 2014 WNBA Finals runner-up
- 57 Wood-scratching tool
- 58 Pakistani bread

Down

- 1 British Invasion drummer
- 2 Hibachi spot
- 3 Mali money
- 4 Real people?
- 5 Maestro's forte
- 6 Refrain bit
- 7 Many a reggae musician
- 8 Additional
- 9 "Fifth Beatle" Sutcliffe
- 10 "Sure, take it!"
- 11 Picasso supporter
- 12 "Set Fire to the Rain" singer
- 15 Call for help
- 18 "The Censor" of Rome
- 20 Part of a winter suit

- 24 Penultimate contest, for its winner
- 25 Work with pupils
- 26 Bob Marley Museum city
- 29 The Blackbirds of the NCAA's Northeast Conf.
- 30 Babe's pen
- 31 Falsity
- 32 "Everything's ready to go!"
- 34 Surveillance org.
- 35 Moral principle
- 37 Not close to 100%
- 38 Texas senator Cruz
- 40 Neither partner
- 41 Avatar of Vishnu
- 46 Faddish berry in smoothies
- 48 Hesitant okay
- 49 Old Milwaukee maker
- 50 Have because of
- 52 Accesses illegally, in a way
- 53 Hitched behind
- 54 Camera holder
- 55 In a way, slangily
- 56 Old Milwaukee-making ingredient
- 58 "Morning Edition" ailer
- 61 Links supporter
- 62 Suffix with form
- 63 Criticize

Find the answers online at: breezejmu.org/sites/crossword_answers

The Breeze

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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."

— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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Mold found in Spotswood bathroom

Residents express concern over potential health implications



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

The Office of Residence Life responded to reports of mold in the shared suite bathroom of several freshman women. Although rumored to be toxic “black mold,” according to ORL the mold was in fact not poisonous, as residents would have been evacuated within 24 hours if it had been. The mold was cleaned from the bathrooms on Jan. 26, but several of the residents still moved out.

By **INGRID BASHEDA AND CAROLINE BRANDT**
The Breeze

Four female freshman residents of Spotswood Hall, a dorm located on the Quad and built in 1917, found mold in their shared suite bathroom last semester. Rumors spread quickly when residents said the mold was black, with many speculating that it was toxic “black mold.”

“If the mold had been ‘black mold,’ then the residents would have been evacuated within 24 hours,” Nicole Caliri, the Spotswood hall director and a senior psychology major, said.

The students noticed the mold in their bathroom right

before they left for winter break.

“We didn’t think that it was a big deal at the time and we cleaned it up ourselves,” Zoie Henry, a freshman psychology major and resident of the room where the mold was found, said.

After the break, the women came back to a bathroom with much more mold accumulating on the floors, walls and ceilings.

“I had tried to clean up the mold again on my own,” Henry said. “But there was too much and I couldn’t remove it just by scrubbing it.”

Along with the mold, there had also been an abnormal amount of dust accumulation in Henry’s room throughout

the year. The Office of Residence Life sent workers to Spotswood to clean up the moldy bathroom and inspect the ventilation after Henry put in a maintenance request in late January.

“To this point we have received just one work order in Spotswood regarding mold,” Kevin Meaney, the director of ORL, said in an email. “There has been no sign of new mold growth since that cleaning.”

According to the Office of Residence Life, the bathroom was cleaned on Jan. 26.

“At that time, an issue was discovered that was causing

see **MOLD**, page 4

A ‘REEL’ impact

Students and faculty promote sustainable living with ChangeIsREEL website

By **NATALIE LAVERY**
contributing writer

Using the power of media, members of ChangeIsREEL are working to increase knowledge about sustainability.

ChangeIsREEL is an interactive website created in September by the National Science Foundation Collective that provides. The NSF Collective is a group of eight JMU employees who work under integrated science and technology professor Eric Pappas. This group of social activists works on many different projects annually, including ChangeIsREEL.

The NSF Collective creates weekly videos on different aspects of sustainability and how to better balance daily living.

Lauren Wheeler, a junior geographic sciences major and a video producer for the ChangeIsREEL website, describes sustainability as taking thoughts and aligning them with actions.

“These thoughts must be your own and not what society is telling you to be; you are your own person and you need to stand up for that,” Wheeler said.

Not only does this website allow individuals to find themselves, it enforces the idea that success must come from the individual level.

“The only way to take control of your life and reach that sustainable personality is to look inside and start coming to terms with yourself,” Pappas said. “Everyone looks for answers on the outside when actually you have to look to yourself.”

Despite the inevitability of change starting with the individual, the NSF Collective wants the viewers to actually learn from its site.

“We want them to be interested and actually want them to work on themselves,” Wheeler said. The videos do not have a real purpose if you are not in a place of accepting the inevitability of change.”

For example, its video on internal vs. external locus of control stated that everyone is a victim of their environments, and that regaining a sense of internal locus of control is the only way to regain control of one’s personal life.

The five areas of sustainability that ChangeIsREEL focuses on are physical sustainability, intellectual sustainability, emotional sustainability, social sustainability and philosophical sustainability. The members of the NSF collective made it clear that not one of these aspects can be sustained by itself; they are all interconnected.

One of the top videos posted to the website clearly demonstrates this idea. At first glance, the video is about how to make a pizza. After viewing this video, the audience quickly learns that not only did the video teach them about pizza, its message also mainly revolved around relationships. The NSF collective used the idea of making pizza to subtly show the audience how to maintain their relationships, connecting the two aspects of sustainability.

“It’s not at all a cooking video; it’s all about developing better relationships,” Kathryn McDearis, a graduate student majoring in writing, rhetoric and technical communication and an active member in both the NSF Collective and ChangeIsREEL, said.

see **CHANGE**, page 4

Pulling math out of orbit

Professor’s formula aids in solving differential equations

By **LOUIS GAERTNER**
The Breeze

Professors in the JMU math department have been working on a method, which they discovered in the 1990s, that can solve very complex problems from all fields of study. In recent years, this method has gained recognition for its efficient ability in solving these complex problems in fields such as neuroscience, satellite and planetary motion and the rate of chemical changes in the atmosphere.

This method can be used to accurately model problems like the travel of neurons in human brains and the precise motion of objects in space over time. Coincidentally, a less-evolved method was found to be used by NASA in the 1960s.

“This discovery is a big thing in mathematics, specifically computationally,” said math professor James Sochacki, a co-discoverer.

The method works in solving these differential equations, by using polynomial forms, which only use multiplication and addition.

“Polynomials can be simply described as taking an X and raising it to a natural number,” collaborating math professor Paul Warne said.

Polynomials and modern computers make the method much more user friendly than most other methods.

“It allows even undergraduate students on their laptops to use the method and build little models of the solar system and play it on their computers while being accurate,” Sochacki said. “We have a lot of undergraduate students who are using this



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

James Sochacki, a professor in the math department, has been working on the Parker-Sochacki model since the '90s. The equation helps engineers predict the celestial orbits of satellites and asteroids.

method, they will go and find some great problem that they are interested in and apply it.”

The first publication of the method was by Joe Rudmin, who was then a JMU physics professor. He used the discovered method to model and solve some astrophysics and NASA problems that he had been working on at the time. The article was then published in Montpelier Magazine in 1991.

However, recognition and a name for the method were not created until two Oxford University neuroscientists published work using it to solve and display neural network models in 2009.

The Oxford article named the method after its two founders, retired JMU math professor Ed Parker and Sochacki. Thus the Parker-Sochacki method was given its title.

Since then, groups of communities all around the world have been using the computational computer method to solve all kinds of problems.

“Someone just emailed us the other day saying that astrophysicists in Hungary are now using our method to try and work satellite motion,” Sochacki said.

JMU faculty have observed that, while the Parker-Sochacki model is the first of

its kind, it has roots dating to the origins of calculus.

“In the beginnings of calculus there was a king in Sweden, and he posed a question to mathematicians and offered a big prize, and the question was, ‘Can you generate polynomial solutions to problems dealing with a quantity and change over time?’ They could not do it, but that is what our method is,” Sochacki said. “Those people sort of knew bits and pieces of our method, but without a computer it was too hard for them to solve so no one carried the idea out.”

see **FORMULA**, page 4

FORMULA

| Equation similar to one used at NASA

from page 3

Lucas said the earliest specialized technique of the Parker-Sochacki method dates to the 1950s. However, Parker and Sochacki discovered independently that the form can be generalized to solve all types of differential equations.

“What made them really cool is they realized it wasn’t just these very special problems which could be solved but rather that they could solve almost any problem using the same approach, and that’s something new and spectacular,” Lucas said.

The only hint at a method similar to the one JMU faculty discovered was written in a secret NASA technical report from the 1960s by a famous mathematician named Erwin Fehlberg. This in-house publication was only recently disclosed.

In the paper, “Fehlberg said that this is a great method, that he thought it would work on lots of differential equations and dynamical systems and clearly was the best method at NASA,” Sochacki said.

This same method, enhanced and generalized, that the JMU math faculty discovered independently has proven the hypothesis of Fehlberg’s conclusion. Sochacki said that Rudmin, who is now the electronics shop supervisor of the Department of Integrated Science and Technology, believes that if people learn how to improve the computational speed, then the users of the method will be able to solve even more complicated problems. Rudmin and the rest of JMU faculty working on the method believe that it is still very much in progress and hope to see further use of it.

“Lots of people basically from all over the world have acquired Jim [Sochacki] and Ed’s [Parkers] work, which others of us have put stuff on the edges,” Lucas said. “It’s not like it’s in a textbook yet — we would like to do that eventually.”

With the aid of computer processors, a user of the method can increase the approximation of the answer by taking the solutions to highest degree they wish for. The higher a user takes the polynomial, the more accurate the final answer will be. This is an evolution from the traditional standard computing models which limit the accuracy of the data collected because they can only be raised to lower powers.

“Most of the specific order methods are like fourth order methods, fifth order methods- this method allows you to be able to go as high as you want. You can have hundredth order methods, which is significantly better,” Warne said.

In fields such as astrophysics and neuroscience, accuracy is key. Because of this, the method founded in the JMU math department has become useful to all fields that deal with differential equations.

The higher the order the polynomial is taken, the more accurate the measurement, which makes this method “the most efficient one that we know of,” Lucas said.

Sochacki has a book on the method in the works too, which he is writing with fellow math professor Anthony Tongen.

And while the math department’s collaborative effort has discovered and developed it, it didn’t have any part in naming the method. The title of “Parker-Sochacki method” seems to stick around regardless of their own opinions on the matter.

“The Russians call it the Parker-Sochacki method [too] and we ask them not to but they say, ‘Why not? If you didn’t show people then no one would know about this technique,’” Sochacki said. “If you guys didn’t put it out there and show people then people wouldn’t be using it.”

CONTACT Louis Gaertner at gaertnlp@dukes.jmu.edu.

MOLD

| Residential advisers have found no similar problems in any other bathrooms



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

In addition to finding mold in the bathroom, Zoie Henry, a freshman psychology major, complained that her dorm in Spotswood Hall was home to cockroaches.

from page 3

the exhaust system to not pull as much moist air out of the bathroom as designed,” Meaney said. “Since that has been corrected, Facilities Management has checked the building systems and is satisfied with its operation and has no reason to believe the mold will return.”

Along with the exhaust system working improperly, there was little to no ventilation at all throughout the building.

“Spotswood Hall got new windows this summer, and because of this there is no longer a draft throughout the building,” Caliri said. “Because we have no air conditioning either, it is suspected that the moisture had built up in

their bathroom and developed mold.”

Shortly after returning to school from winter break and the mold increasing, Henry and her roommate contracted a respiratory illness. Although not confirmed, the women say that it may have had something to do with the mold and the poor ventilation because they had healed quickly after the mold and exhaust system had been taken care of.

According to Caliri, mold was found in only their bathroom, and the residential advisers hadn’t found any other signs of mold when they were doing room checks for winter break.

Adding to the mold and ventilation problems, nine women in the dorm have found cockroaches, according to Henry.

“We pay the same amount of money as other students who live in prestigious dorms and yet we’re living with cockroaches and mold,” Henry said.

Henry and her roommates finally decided to move to a different dorm. After them, three other women also moved out of Spotswood after dealing with the building’s constant maintenance problems.

However, according to Caliri, the women weren’t forced to leave the dorm because it wasn’t a dangerous situation.

“I didn’t want to move to a different dorm because I had such good relationships with all of my dorm mates, but there had been other problems in Spotswood throughout the year and I didn’t want to deal with it anymore,” Henry said. “I didn’t have high expectations about living in a dorm in college, but Spotswood was not fit for living in.”

CONTACT Ingrid Basheda and Caroline Brandt at breezejmu@gmail.com.

ZIKA

| Task force helps educate the community

from front

Baker said that some of her symptoms have lasted much longer and are still ongoing.

“The majority of the symptoms were just a couple of weeks,” Baker said. “For right now, almost three months later I am still dealing with fatigue, joint pain and headaches.”

Despite Baker’s individual reaction to Zika, Good believes that there’s not a major risk for students studying abroad because the symptoms of Zika are mild and the risk for adults is very low. The study abroad office is not canceling any programs at this time.

“There is a risk of contracting the disease of course, as any other disease when you travel, but we would discourage anyone who was pregnant or planning to get pregnant on the trip to attend,” Good said. “But we don’t feel that any students fit that criteria. But we are educating all groups who are going on the trip.”

The Student Health Center at JMU offers information and vaccinations for students going abroad.

“We have a specialized time of the week; it’s not every week, but we have the travel clinic,” Rodgers said.

Students can make an appointment for the travel clinic through the University Health Center’s website. They then answer questions about where they will be traveling.

The doctor or physician’s assistant will look at where the student is going and inform them on what vaccines they need or what preventative medicines they should take beforehand, Rodgers said. The office will also give students going to Latin America, the Caribbean or other mosquito hot zones information about how to avoid mosquito bites.

“Unfortunately this species of mosquito [that carries Zika] is day and night,” Rodgers said. “It is not our American

view of a mosquito that comes out at dusk. There is a long list of recommendations of wearing long sleeves, of using insect repellents, sleeping with screens or if possible in air conditioning or where everything is closed up.”

Although students do need to pay for their own vaccines, they are at a reduced cost.

“So what we have to pay for it is what we transfer to students,” Rodgers said. “Most things are double if you went to the medical market, if you went to your private doctor. And most preventative things are not covered in insurance.”

“We have relationships with the community and the emergency and disaster planning so we can help the community and the community can help us.”

Dr. Stephen Rodgers
Medical Director at the University Health Center

The JMU study abroad offices feels it is equipped to handle the spread of Zika.

“We had an Ebola breakout in Western Africa two years ago, we have malaria concerns, we have dengue fever, we have yellow fever,” Good said. “But because of the lack of severity of the symptoms, Zika has not been a major concern.”

Good said that trips wouldn’t be canceled unless more information came to light that stated that Zika stayed in the host body for a longer period of time than is seen now, which is about a week.

“I don’t want to diminish the concern,” Good said. “It is an old virus but it is a relatively new rapid increase in the number

of cases. It is now just being studied more.”

Baker is struggling to find someone who knows more about Zika. She feels that because it is taking place in developing countries, there is not as much reliable research as there would be if the epicenter of the problem was in the U.S.

“I am on this quest to connect with someone somewhere who has studied it and knows something about it but I’m realizing that may never happen,” Baker said.

According to Patel, the CDC is working to do more research on the virus; specifically on its connection to microcephaly and Guillain-Barré, an autoimmune disease.

Baker said that once she receives the green light from her doctors, she will continue going to South America on mission trips, despite having contracted the Zika virus. This, however, could take a while because so much is still unknown about the virus.

According to Rodgers, the JMU Pandemic Task Force will meet on Friday to discuss the Zika virus impact. This task force includes heads of all the departments on campus and started after the massive H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009. The task force works with JMU and the Harrisonburg community.

“We have relationships with the community and the emergency and disaster planning so we can help the community and the community can help us,” Rodgers said.

Rodgers said that, because there is no preventative vaccine for Zika, the most important thing is to avoid being bitten by a mosquito.

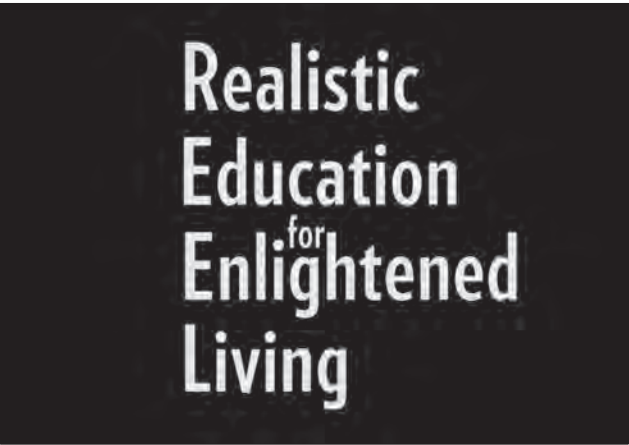
Baker believes that being educated about the virus will help keep people safe.

“I just want to raise awareness,” Baker said. “My message is be wise and use caution.”

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CHANGE

| Team hopes to improve world



COURTESY OF KATHRYN MCDERIS

from page 3

ChangelsREEL’s main goal is to create sustainable people who have harmony within themselves, which promotes self awareness and leads to a better and more fulfilling life overall.

“People are a victim of what happens around them, and instead of just being the victim, we are encouraging people to take control,” McDearis said.

The main focus of this website is to inform its audience and allow it to ultimately be a more successful individual in society.

“Watching the videos inspired me to want to be a better person through being more aware of my surroundings,” said Kaylin Miller, a freshman nursing major who viewed the videos for a class she took with Pappas. “Changing yourself does not seem like such a simple thing to do but the videos really show a light on how easy it could be if you put forth your best effort.”

Everything is connected and change goes beyond the individual into society. One person’s action can affect thousands of others, according to McDearis.

According to Wheeler, the website can serve as a tool for others to help themselves.

“This website was designed for people who are looking to better themselves not just as an individual, but for making the world a better place,” Wheeler said.


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MATT D'ANGELO | speaks for itself

Swimsuit issue gets an A 'plus'

Sports Illustrated made a great decision in choosing Ashley Graham as a cover model



Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue, which features hundreds of photos of scantily clad women prancing about island paradises, is released every February to provide America with a glimmer of sunshine during the dark depths of the winter months. This magazine has edged its way into pop culture alongside the likes of Punxsutawney Phil and his "accurate" prediction about whether Americans will experience six more weeks of winter.

This kind of attention has resulted in a long list of cover girls who've enjoyed successful modeling careers after starting out at SI. This year, the editors at SI decided to shake things up by producing three separate covers with a different model on each. The decision itself could certainly be listed as bold by SI purists, but this idea was dwarfed by an even more impactful decision to feature SI's first ever plus-size model on the cover.

Ashley Graham joined Ronda Rousey and Hailey Clauson as the first models to split the SI Cover. Graham is the first size 16 model to be featured in the magazine, let alone on the cover. The three separate issues, which were distributed equally throughout the U.S., capture the country's public perfectly.

Bravo to SI for taking the bold risk of putting a plus-size model on the cover. Yes, unfortunately, it's a risk. While many JMU students may like to think of this "politically correct" move as something that should've come a long time ago, it must be acknowledged that this was still a massive step for the magazine and the modelling industry as a whole.

This is a national magazine, and while there are many people out there (this writer included) who feel that making

this decision is fantastic, there are still a lot of people who don't. So kudos to you, SI, for deciding that it was time for the American public (and possibly even the world) to take a first step toward realizing that beautiful women don't all have to be as thin as twigs.

After all, it's a reflection of American society as a whole in 2016. With more than two-thirds of adults in the U.S. being listed as overweight and up to 30 million people being affected by eating disorders, it was certainly a very positive step to include a model on the cover who would glorify the human body.

And yet, her beauty goes beyond the fact that she's a plus-size model. Frankly, that's the challenge with this idea. Sure, it's great that Graham was featured on the cover of SI's swimsuit issue, but that's not to say that she didn't deserve it and it's most certainly not to say that the only reason she was featured is because of her size.

Graham, who started modeling as a child in Lincoln, Nebraska, is stunning and absolutely deserved the cover. While it's great to appreciate SI's decision to feature a plus-size model on the cover of one of its most viewed issues, it shouldn't overshadow the fact that Graham is someone who earned it full well.

Props to SI for its risky decision, but more importantly, congratulations to Graham for reaching what could be the pinnacle of a great career. One can only hope that her presence in the magazine is met with a balanced affirmation — one that cites SI's decision to provide Graham with the opportunity, but also one that celebrates Graham's courage to prove to an industry and a public that a woman doesn't need to be a size 2 to be glorified by society.

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KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

BESS PREDDY | *The Breeze*

Sexual assault is a criminal offense and should always be handled as such

You'd have to be completely oblivious at this point if you still don't realize how big of an issue sexual assault has become on college campuses. Even at a school like our beloved JMU, the judiciary and conduct system has failed to protect us or bring justice to survivors. No matter how many Madison Alerts I get, I'm sure that our school and schools across the country aren't doing enough. Even with the implementation of new and more wide-reaching Title IX reporting laws, how's it possible that colleges and universities are still failing their students?

It's because they have no business being involved in the process. Sexual assault is a violent and serious crime. It's a felony that needs a trial, but a place of higher education isn't a courtroom.

When the reporting systems that are currently in place were created, I have no doubt they were well-intentioned in trying to bridge the gap between survivors who want to hold their attackers accountable but are also afraid of going through an actual trial.

However, I don't think that, as individuals, we have the right to choose to what extent we hold someone who's committed a serious and violent crime accountable.

Sexual assault is one of the only felony crimes that's handled separately within a school's administration. For instance, if an individual is trafficking drugs on a high scale, or even worse, commits murder, the administration doesn't get to decide if they just hold a student conduct hearing internally or report it to law enforcement authorities. Why should they hold that power when it comes to sexual assault?

While I can acknowledge the potential psychological issues that could arise for survivors, those who commit sexual crimes need to be held responsible to the highest level possible. If we take school administrations out of the picture, then we can ensure two things. First, the issue of a school's image or reputation won't play a factor in the outcome of a case. There'll be no "brushing it under the rug" and survivors will have a better shot at justice if

those deciding the case aren't also connected to it. Secondly, it will bring more attention to how serious of a crime it is. The courts can more clearly determine and have the right to expand definitions of assault. By making sure criminals are put away, and not just given pseudo punishments like "expelled after graduation," a real standard can be set.

Universities and student organizations have done a phenomenal job in creating resources for students who've been attacked to get help of all kinds. We as a society are becoming more involved in the movement to end the stigma and lies spread about sexual assault. However, our job as peers and the administration's job should be to focus on the survivor and stop there. We should help to ensure that the right people are handling these criminal cases, and school administrations have proved they aren't the right people.

Bess Preddy is a senior international affairs major. Contact Bess at preddyem@dukes.jmu.edu.

HAYLEY MOORE |

historical nonfiction

It's time to start making your own relationship goals



Over the past few months, there's been a growing trend on social media. I've dubbed it the "goals meme." There's the "Friendship Goals," "Life Goals," "Cooking Goals" and "Weekend Goals." To be honest, everything seems to have a goal

nowadays. Yet, there's one that I've seen the most: "Relationship Goals."

My questions are, why has this even become a thing? Have we forgotten how to act in relationships? Do we really need the Internet's help in order to have the "perfect relationship?"

Typically there's a picture of a couple doing something together, but some I've come across include a proposal in a far-off place, the perfect engagement ring, significant others going to the gym together or just something cute and unique. Tons of people are sharing these pictures online with captions about how they desperately want this or sending it to their significant other saying, "This needs to be us."

It's nice to put the time and effort into something because we want to and not because we saw it on Facebook.

Don't get me wrong; it's great to have goals in life when it comes to relationships. It's also extremely important to have a good and positive relationship.

On one hand, these memes are inspiring couples to have those kinds of relationships. But at the same time, people should go out and make certain moments special for their significant others. I don't even understand why we would want to use ideas from other relationships. That doesn't make any relationship unique at all if we just steal ideas from one another.

We should be the ones coming up with the ideas instead of using an idea we saw on the Internet.

It's nice to put the time and effort into something because we want to and not because we saw it on Facebook.

If people really want relationship goals, they should have the goal of having the best relationship they can with someone. Create special moments based on your own relationships, not random people's pictures.

Five to 10 years from now, when you're telling someone about how you met your significant other or the story of your relationship, do you want to talk about how you found a random picture on Facebook and you decided to use it in your own relationship? If not, don't let an Internet meme become part of your own unique relationship story.

Hayley Moore is a senior history and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major. Contact Hayley at moorehe@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "maybe-you-should've-helped-clean-it-up" dart to the guy who threw up going down the hall from the anatomy lab in HHS. From an instructor who thinks you're rude and that a thank you would've been nice.

A "why-are-you-even-here?" dart to the back row of audience members who chose to spend the annual Leslie George Eating Disorder Speak Out glued to their phones. From a silently struggling senior who was comforted at the event, but also appalled, insulted and distracted by your constant Instagramming and Snapchatting.

A "what-do-you-think-we-do-in-the-College-of-Education?" dart to the writer of the Teach for America article in last week's issue. From a COE professor who can assure you that we educate our students to help children receive a quality education.

An "I-knew-you-could-do-it" pat to Rachel Petty, Matt D'Angelo and Briana Ellison for being hired as Breeze editors for next year.

From your current editor who couldn't be more proud of you and is excited to see you thrive in your new positions.

EMMA KORYNTA | The Breeze

There’s more to Kesha’s case than meets the eye

Kesha’s anthemic songs have been encouraging a carefree partying lifestyle since I was in middle school. Regardless of her lyrics promoting promiscuity (which may lead some to be shocked by the fact that the pop singer actually has a near-genius level IQ of 140), Kesha by no means deserved to be sexually assaulted.

Years after the fact, Kesha has finally had the strength to come forward in a developing lawsuit against her producer. The suit is primarily focused on getting her out of the recording contract she’s currently tied to with her alleged abuser. In the suit, Kesha claims that her producer, Dr. Luke (Lukasz Gottwald), got her drunk, drugged her with what he called “sober pills” and then raped her. While this is the main instance she’s reported in her claims against him, she has opened up about other various instances of abuse she’s suffered while under his control.

Throughout Kesha’s career, the 28-year-old singer has been subtly controlled by Dr. Luke as he’s stunted her creativity, encouraged her to lose weight and has taken advantage of her in both the business world and sexually. Kesha didn’t come forward with these allegations until 2014, where she came forward in an attempt to get out of her recording contract with Sony.

Honestly, the mere fact that Dr. Luke had psychologically abused her enough to send her into rehab for body image issues and an eating disorder should’ve been more than enough to allow her to leave her contract. She shouldn’t have had to wait

years after the most harmful abuse to even plead her case. To add insult to injury, now that she’s finally come forward, she isn’t even being given the common respect of trust.

Those who’ve accused Kesha of lying, including Dr. Luke, have tried to claim that she stands to gain monetarily if she wins, essentially claiming that Kesha has put herself through this traumatizing and socially demeaning trial to make a few dollars.

Kesha’s contract with Sony shouldn’t have anything to do with her personal safety, only her ability to record and produce music under a brand.

You may have noticed that Kesha hasn’t released any new music in quite a while. Currently, Kesha has been denied access to leave her recording contract due to insufficient evidence, and thus has been forced to continue working with her abuser if she wants to create any more new music.

When people accuse Kesha of lying about her rape or using it as a ploy to get money, they fail to recognize that she’s been unable to produce and sell any music during this hardship.

Fans and celebrities alike have been signing petitions and

donating money to Kesha in attempts to help the cause, while #FreeKesha has been trending on social media. But the root of this problem points out what’s wrong in our society on a larger scale.

We live in a society where those who come forward about their sexual assaults are assumed to be lying, even though only 2 percent of rape accusations are false, which is the same percentage as other felonies.

If Kesha were trying to get out of her contract with Sony because she wanted to make more money elsewhere or she wanted media hype from a trial, that would be one thing. But this has nothing to do with business. Kesha has been completely blocked off from the music world while simultaneously being forced to interact with someone who has caused her years of distress and pain.

Kesha’s contract with Sony shouldn’t have anything to do with her personal safety, only her ability to record and produce music under a brand. When her health (in any form of the word) has been compromised, she shouldn’t be forced to stay under contract with her abuser. This shouldn’t even be a question.

If she’s had the strength to come forward after years of silence and publicly share that she’s been mentally, sexually and psychologically abused, the world should believe her.

Emma Korynta is sophomore media arts and design major. Contact Emma at korynten@dukes.jmu.edu.

JOANNA McNEILLY | The Breeze

NETFLIX

recommendation of the week

TV: “Better Call Saul” (2015 - Present)

2 seasons (1 on Netflix)

For those of you who were as devastated as I was after finishing “Breaking Bad,” boy do I have news that’ll brighten your Netflix nights. “Better Call Saul” is here, and it’s oh so sensational.

This prequel to “Breaking Bad” takes place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Jimmy McGill (Bob Odenkirk) works as an independent public defender. The series kicks off with a black and white scene of what looks like Saul Goodman working at a Cinnabon in a food court. We can remember Goodman as a successful criminal lawyer from “Breaking Bad,” but his nametag and

paranoia in this scene makes it obvious he’s left his lawyering days behind. This nostalgic feeling sticks with you throughout the series as you’re taken back to when Goodman was McGill, or “Slippin Jimmy,” where he was starting his days as a lawyer.

I was skeptical about this spinoff because I worried that “Breaking Bad” would cast too much of a shadow over the show and suffer. But you’ll be surprised to find that the creators did a fantastic job at telling Goodman’s story without any trace of “Breaking Bad,” except for the pleasingly similar cinematography.

SATIRICAL NEWS COLUMN

Group member who’s ‘too sick’ to meet is at E-Hall

By MATT MURPHY
The Breeze

A stunning spectacle drew the eyes to a small booth at JMU’s most popular dining hall today, but it hardly had to do with food. It seems that the group member who notified everybody on GroupMe that he was too sick to leave his house this afternoon is at E-Hall, carrying on with some of his cronies.

That jerk. Everyone sort of suspected that this guy was a liar from the beginning. He never shows up to any of the project group meetings and always has some lame excuse. As it turns out, the group member who’s “crazy sick” still has the energy to scarf down French fries and swap weekend stories with his pals.

Being too sick to meet with a group of people treads the line of courteous toward others’ health and just pure laziness. There’s

simply no way this guy has any sort of sickness in the first place since he’s joking around with his buddies at the table. Being sick isn’t a time for laughter and it’s no fun at all (trust me, I’ve been sick before and this guy is healthy as a horse).

First he was out of town to see family, then his car broke down on the way to the meeting. Then he was out of town again for a “golf competition.” Are you kidding me? This isn’t cool. This project is a huge part of the course grade and this guy won’t participate at all. The instructor doesn’t even seem to care that he does none of the work, either. Everyone else has to pick up his slack. No one in the group has the gall to call him out on it, either, so meetings will just have to work around him.

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BRIANA ELLISON | off topic

Let him pick

Obama’s facing senseless opposition to possible Supreme Court nomination



The unexpected death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia almost two weeks ago was an event that sent the political and legal spheres into a tailspin. Almost immediately after his death, Congressional Republicans, led by Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, vowed to block any nominee that President Barack Obama sent to them for confirmation.

In the midst of a heated — and what will most likely be legendary — election, members of the GOP are feeling the pressure to maintain power in whatever way they can. They

have all but demanded that Obama should leave naming Scalia’s successor to the next president, saying it’s part of his constitutional duty as president.

Of course, this claim is absolutely ridiculous. Both parties erupted into a seemingly calm panic after Scalia’s death, as they realized what came next was the delicate nomination process. While one side called for Obama to immediately name what would be his third nomination to the Supreme Court (with Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan being his other two), the other called for him to abstain from such a decision.

On one hand, you almost can’t blame the GOP for its reluctance to confirm a nomination. Take it from its view — with Scalia’s presence gone, what was once a majority conservative court is now split evenly at 4-4. Although I hate to stereotype in this way, as a Democrat, Obama’s nominee will probably be someone more liberal, which would give the “liberal” side of the court the upper hand, 5-4. For the GOP, this could be disastrous if its party’s nominee wins the presidency.

Now, in reality, the actions the GOP is taking to block a potential nominee are pathetic, ignorant and cowardly. For the past eight years, critics of Obama’s presidency have consistently opposed most — if not all — of his political actions. It claims Obama hasn’t fulfilled his duties as president. Yet it consistently makes decisions and blocks his legislation, while simultaneously bashing him for not accomplishing anything when it is practically impossible for him to do so.

Additionally, the GOP is shrouding its reasoning for commanding Obama to leave nominating a new nominee in false information. It claims that there’s historical evidence that presidents have left Supreme Court nominations to their

successors if there is a vacancy in their final year. Yet the historical evidence blatantly proves this claim to be false. A couple of examples: President Ronald Reagan nominated current Justice Anthony Kennedy in November 1987, and Kennedy was confirmed in February 1988; and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt nominated Justice Frank Murphy in January 1940 (Murphy was confirmed just over a week later).

So no, there’s no historical evidence that presidents have left such nominations to their successors during election years. Sure, the opportunity to do so isn’t seen much in history, but it’s rare that justices die during an election year. By blocking any nominations without consideration, the GOP also hinders Obama from fulfilling his constitutional duty.

A duty that they, in recent days, have begun to say doesn’t actually exist. Yet, as evidenced by the following quote, Article II Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution clearly states this power exists:

“And he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court.”

Denying the president his constitutional right to nominate Scalia’s successor is troubling. Such a decision is more important than who will nominate the new justice. The new justice’s post will last longer than whomever wins the presidency this November, and Obama fulfilling his constitutional duty (if he finds a nominee he’s comfortable with) is far more important than our fractured, partisan-loving politicians.

In no way want to speak for the late Justice Scalia, but I believe he, as an originalist justice (meaning he made decisions according to the framers’

original intent), would find this whole situation slightly comical.

On a serious note, it’s absolutely ridiculous that even in his final year of his legendary presidency, Obama is still facing opposition, this time as he tries to fulfill one of his inherent presidential rights. It’s imperative not only that we as citizens understand why this whole process is important and why the present situation is ridiculous, but also that we alert McConnell and the rest to the fact that we are aware of how absurd their claims are. Let Obama nominate.

Briana Ellison is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Briana at ellisobr@dukes.jmu.edu.



KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

A life-saving gift

Student donates his kidney to a stranger, following his sister's lead

By YASMINE MAGGIO
The Breeze

The thought of donating a kidney may not be one that passes through the mind of a typical 20-year-old. But for junior Dan Miller, there was no hesitation.

"After seeing my sister do it and learning a lot about that, I started thinking about it a lot more," Miller, a health sciences major, said.

His sister, Lauren Miller, made the decision to donate her kidney about a year before he did. However, she faced a lot more skepticism than her brother from family and friends who thought it was too dangerous. But the two did their research. After each of them discovered the high demand for transplants, they were inspired to go under the knife.

"When I decided to donate, I knew he would be there to support my decisions and be excited with me," Lauren, a 2015 graduate of Longwood University, said. "I wasn't surprised at all when he wanted to do the same thing."

Miller made the call to a transplant coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University in October. From there, he scheduled a day to go in and have tests done in order to ensure he was mentally and physically healthy. That's when the doctors tried to talk him out of it.

"When you have people who are trying so hard to talk you out of something like that, it definitely makes you second guess yourself, no matter how confident you are," Miller said. "But the chance of something happening in my car on the way to the hospital for this surgery is 100 times higher."

Fast forward to Dec. 21, and Miller was on the way to the hospital for 5 a.m. surgery. After a quick recovery, he went home and was practically back to normal by Christmas Day, waking up early to make breakfast for his family.

"I had plenty of anxiety," Miller said. "Even though I had done my research and come to terms with everything, it's still kind of a scary thing to do. I had never had any kind of surgery, and I have this super irrational fear of waking up in the middle of something like that."

Despite that, Miller found comfort in his decision

knowing that none of his family suffered from chronic kidney disease or even has the same blood type as him. The chance of one of them needing a kidney in the future is very unlikely, so he wanted to help someone else who could benefit from it.

"When they asked me about [my family], it definitely made me take a step back and think," Miller said. "That's one thing that I still think about. If those circumstances were different, would I have held out and played it safe for someone?"

Like his sister's, Miller's donation was anonymous. All Miller knows about his recipient is that he is a young dad under the age of 40 with kids. At the time of the surgery, the two were put in different areas of the hospital. In order for them to meet, it must be a mutual agreement.

"Hopefully one day I can actually put a face to it and meet him," Miller said. "I don't want to meet someone and have them feel like they owe me something. I just want to see someone living a good life. I'm going to take advantage of the opportunity as soon as it arises."

As for Miller's parents, they were uneasy but still accepted his decision more willingly than they did his sister's. After his sister had gone through the process, they were more educated and familiar with it. Nevertheless, they've always been very supportive of

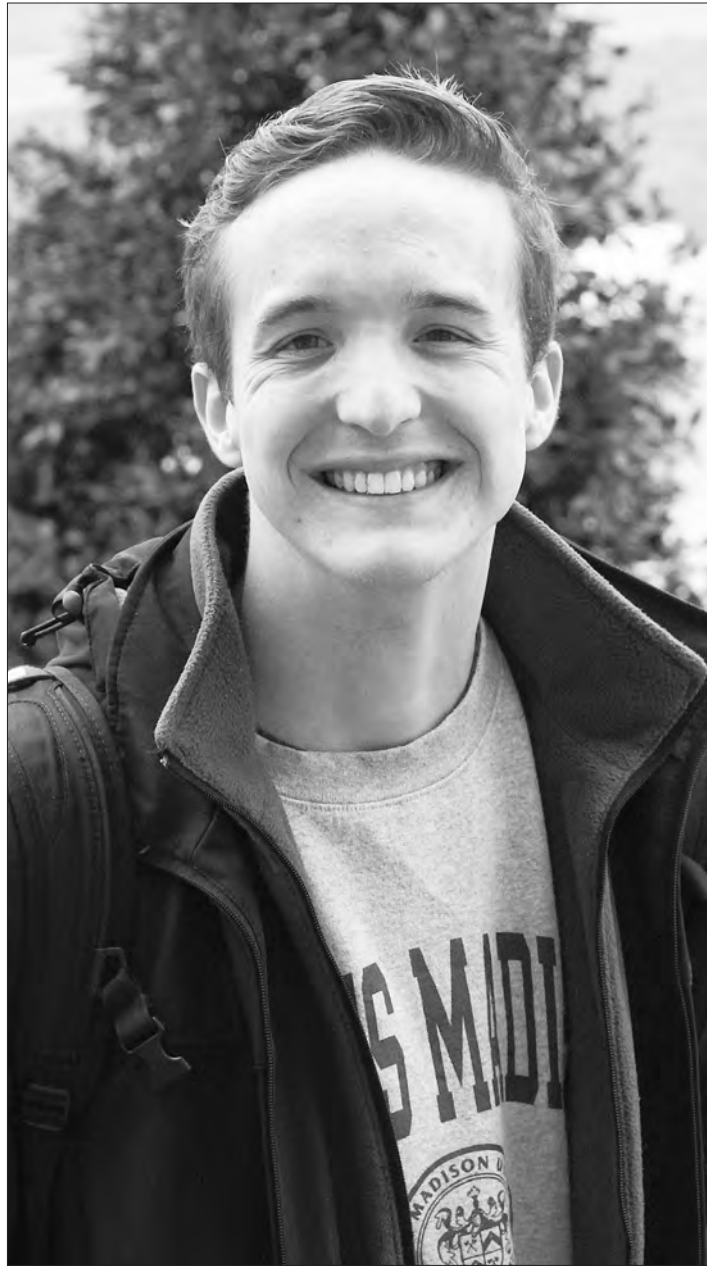
both of their children.

"We weren't surprised when Dan decided to donate his kidney," Terry Miller, Lauren and Dan's mother, said. "We were very proud and excited that he was saving the life of a total stranger. Words can't even express how very proud I am of Dan and Lauren."

Miller's motive for sharing his story is to clear misconceptions about the dangers of donating a kidney and raise awareness of the 121,678 people waiting for a donation, according to the National Kidney Foundation, some of them dying before being able to receive a new organ.

"We're definitely telling our stories and sharing with more people, hoping that something bigger will come out of it," Miller said.

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ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

Dan Miller, a junior health sciences major, was inspired by his sister to donate.

Shattering the glass ceiling

Professors and students take a look at the current state of women in politics



KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

By TERESA CUMMINGS
contributing writer

While gesturing to the portrait on the wall in his office, political science professor Pete Giesen asked, "Do you notice all the women in there? There are only three."

The portrait was of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1958. Out of the 100 members of the House, only three were women.

According to the official Supreme Court and White House websites, only four women serve in the presidential cabinet out of 15 spots and three women serve in the Supreme Court out of nine seats. Out of 535 members of Congress, only 104 are women. In the current Virginia House of Delegates, there are 19 women serve out of 100 members. With these numbers, there's a huge divide between male and female representation in the political world.

"I do feel that if women become more involved and voice their opinions more on certain issues then there would be more done, because we would have a more feminine representation," Whitley Smith, a junior political science major, said.

From obtaining the right to vote less than 100 years ago in 1920 to now having females campaigning for the presidency, the role of women in politics has grown.

"I'm starting to realize that females are very underestimated when it comes to politics," Ashlyn Breese, a senior political science major, said. "We are looked at as we don't have much intelligence or knowledge in the field, or if we look like we have a lot of power, we come out as overbearing or cold-hearted."

Giesen has witnessed prejudice against women in the workforce personally. Giesen's mother was the first female Republican to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates. With such a politically active mother, Giesen was exposed to feminist

issues from an early age and was naturally concerned when he encountered sexist actions in real life.

Giesen recalled a time when he was advocating for a female co-worker to receive a promotion at Westinghouse Electric Co. in the air conditioning division to a "purchase clerk" position and was reprimanded for it.

"Look son," Giesen recalled his former boss's words, "She's a female, we don't promote females, we don't do that in our corporation."

While situations like that one Giesen described don't occur as often as before because of a widespread promotion of feminism in the U.S., there are still major divides between the treatment of women and men.

"We have higher expectations for the U.S. given that our role in leading international conversations on girls, education and women's empowerment," Kristin Wylie, a political science assistant professor, said. "Yet in our country we still have a wage gap."

The wage gap found in the U.S. between men and women is currently 78 cents to every \$1 a man earns when working regularly in the force, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While studying with others in the female political field, Wylie discovered that women start working a "third shift" when they choose to pursue politics. It's been classified at the first shift located in the workforce, the second in the household and the third attending political functions, fundraising and campaigning.

"As women have gained increasing opportunities in the workforce, women still are disproportionately responsible for the vast majority of household chores," Wylie said.

According to Wylie's research, there's an ambition gap that is socialized early on in women and girls that differs from men

and boys. Although both men and women have the same level of potential to become leaders, traditionally only the men would fit the mold for leadership. Women had been socialized to be followers rather than leaders.

"The world would be more equal if women spoke their mind," Smith said.

However, the image of a leader is changing from something traditionally masculine to something more feminine. With this image morphing within the millennial generation, new opportunities await women for the taking, and politics is just one example.

"Women are less likely to receive external encouragement to run, and are most likely to depend on that external encouragement," Wylie said.

According to Wylie's findings, women who attempt to enter the political stage have two major obstacles: economics and confidence.

"Nobody wants to be the first person to create the path," Breese said. "If they have somebody to aspire to be like, it'll be easier for them to decide if they want to jump in and do the same thing."

During the suffrage movement, women fought for the change so that women could vote. Today the feminist movement is brimming with young women who could be the change in this generation.

"There are other people watching you who want to follow in your footsteps and are waiting for someone like you who is willing to do it in order for them to feel like it is OK to do it," Breese said. "You might start a new path for somebody else."

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Thinking between the *lines*

Students discuss the stress-relieving, nostalgic trend of coloring



TOP Sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Anna Hornberger makes her own coloring pages. **BOTTOM** Junior biotechnology major Rachel Korba shows off a page she worked on in a travel-themed coloring book for adults.

By EMMA KORYNTA
The Breeze

Vibrant hues of purples, blues and greens fill bold outlines of flowers as softer shades play a trick on the mind and make you see shadows beneath the petals. It may be absolutely bustling on campus around you, but all you notice are the colored pencils moving.

Erin Casey, a graduate assistant in the Valley Scholars program and a second-year student in the master's program for communication and advocacy, knows this feeling well.

"It's always been super calming for me and very relaxing to kind of get me out of my head and focus on the little things," Casey said.

Casey has been coloring for as long as she can remember, and likes to use it as a form of relaxation and escape.

"It gives me something very tangible and small to focus on versus if my brain is going all over the place thinking of things I can't control," Casey said. "Bringing a coloring book or doing a mandala is very small and something I can accomplish, and something I can be in the moment and do."

Adult coloring books are available for anyone to use, regardless of their academic background in art. Rachel Korba, a junior biotechnology major, also finds emotional release through coloring.

"Whenever I'm having a bad day, I try to turn to art," Korba said. "Whether it be listening to music or coloring. It also is just a good stress reliever because it takes your mind off what you're doing. Your mind goes blank, you don't even focus on what you're doing."

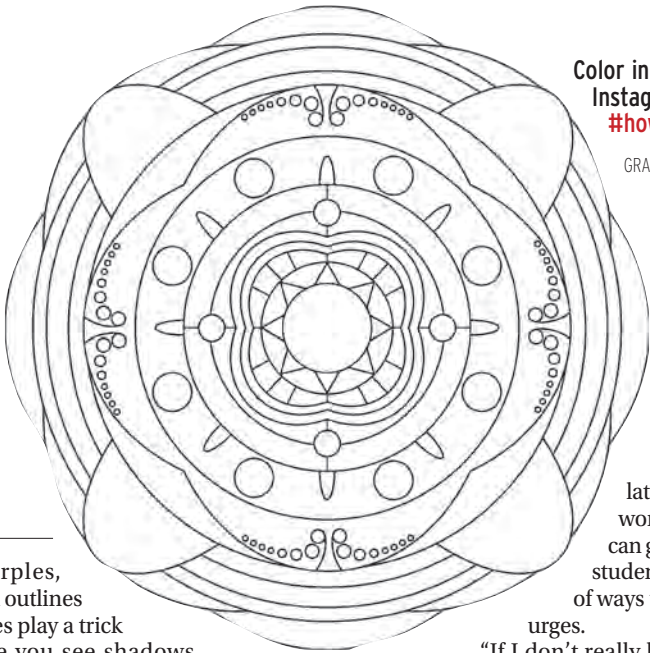
Korba has been painting since she was a child, but has found that it isn't the most accessible hobby to have while at college.

"Coloring is just an easier way to relieve stress with an artistic spin, and it's faster because you can take anything on the go with your colored pencils and your book," Korba said. "It's nice when you have down time, like that awkward 15 to 20 minutes between classes."

Korba also finds that, contrary to popular belief, science and art complement each other.

"They actually go very well together, having to be creative and think outside the box for when things go wrong in science and in your experiments," Korba said. "It has to do with thinking outside of the box when you color too."

Whether it's a store-brand coloring book of flowers, the



Color in our mandala and Instagram it with the hashtag **#howdoyoubreeze**.
GRAPHIC BY KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

latest "adult book" of curse words or the first thing you can get your hands on, many students have found a variety of ways to relieve their coloring urges.

"If I don't really have anything to color with me, I'll color maps or newspapers," Casey said.

Some students find the other end of the coloring process to be what relaxes them. Sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Anna Hornberger draws outlines in her sketchbook in her free time, but doesn't color them in.

Hornberger gave one of her drawings on a canvas as a gift to a friend of hers, which later inspired her to start selling her drawings as coloring sheets.

"I went to visit her at Virginia Tech and she had taken the canvas I had drawn it on and she had colored it in to match her room, and that's kind of when I got the idea," Hornberger said. "I thought, 'Why don't I just do that purposefully?'"

Hornberger doesn't have a specific type of coloring sheet that she anticipates selling on her Etsy account, but she thinks she will just sell individual sheets or PDFs instead of actual books.

"Now that I've been doing it for so long, it mostly comes to me from different flowers and different petals and different shapes of things," Hornberger said. "I'll start out drawing some circles, then a ton of symmetrical loops, and making sure my hand stays very still so they all look the same, and I just keep going."

Just like some students are relaxed by the simplicity of coloring, Hornberger loves making the unfilled drawings.

"A lot of people use the coloring books for relaxation," Hornberger said. "I think it's really cool that something that relaxes me can also be used to help other people."

These students feel as anyone could enjoy coloring, even if they aren't usually artistically inclined.

"Everyone should give it a try, even if you're not an artistic person or don't consider yourself someone who would sit down and color," Korba said.

Many students enjoy how coloring simultaneously gives them freedom from their responsibilities as well as the authority to make your own creative choices.

"You can do whatever and it's yours and it's great no matter what," Korba said. "I like being able to have that freedom, even though it's in a small space."

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'The total package'

Coaches' relationship helped junior diver Olivia Lehman find a home at JMU, where she is the CAA's 2016 Most Outstanding Diver

By **PETER CAGNO**
The Breeze

Long before the title of Most Outstanding Diver in the Colonial Athletic Association was even a twinkle in her eye, junior diver Olivia Lehman was doing leaps and flips on trampolines and gymnastics mats in Centerville, Ohio. It wasn't until she reached eighth grade that she discovered that she wanted to continue her passion for acrobatics.

"Once I stopped doing gymnastics, I realized I still liked doing flips and stuff, so I found a dive team and joined that," Lehman said. "So I was competing with a club team year-round and then joined my high school team."

Lehman joined the Washington Township Recreation Center dive team where she was coached by Patti Hickey. "She was one of the hardest working kids I've ever had," Hickey said. "She was tenacious and always wanted to get better and she wouldn't stop until she did."

Although Lehman found JMU under her own inclination, Hickey also had her own special inclination to urge her diver to take her talents to the Shenandoah Valley. JMU head diving coach Becky Benson and Hickey go way back, as far as 40 years. The two both grew up in Los Angeles, California, and dived for the same club team. Hickey's knowledge of Benson's personality and coaching style led her to reach out with a prospective athlete.

"With Olivia she said, 'I think I have a girl that would be a great fit in your program, she's willing to learn and she would thrive under your type of coaching,'" Benson said.

Hickey holds Benson in high regard as a coach, and only wanted the best for Lehman as she pursued collegiate diving. Lehman's tenacity and willingness to get better, coupled with Benson's expertise made JMU the perfect fit.

"She's great at bringing out the best in everyone,"

Hickey said of Benson. "I knew that [Lehman's] personality would fit well in Becky's program since we were raised in the same atmosphere, and I knew Olivia wanted to get to the top and that Becky could take her there."

While the esteem of Benson's coaching expertise appealed to Lehman, she also wanted a school with a competitive academic atmosphere and a good team environment.

"The team has this great dynamic, sort of like a family bond," Lehman said. "The divers support the swimmers, the swimmers support the divers, which is hard to find at other places. I really loved that aspect of JMU."

Lehman has certainly thrived under Benson's guidance, notching CAA Diver of the Week honors three times this season, including back-to-back weeks at the beginning of February. In addition to those weekly accolades, Lehman was also crowned the CAA's Most Outstanding Diver of 2016 after her first-place finish in the 1-meter dive at the CAA Championships. She also secured six first-place finishes this season with two in the 1-meter dive and the remaining four coming in the 3-meter competition.

Lehman noted that the recognition she gets from faculty and staff in the athletic department for her accomplishments is a satisfying feeling.

"I feel like I worked really hard this year and put in a lot of time and energy, so to see it pay off like this is really great," Lehman said. "As a perfectionist, I always want to be the best. Especially with diving, I think that pushes me to strive for perfection."

Lehman and Benson both know that perfection doesn't come easy and that it takes hours upon hours of practice and nitpicking small aspects of her dives in order for her to be the diver she wants to be.

"We work on our same six dives every single day and [Benson] will give us corrections and we have to try our best to keep a positive attitude if it's not coming

immediately," Lehman said. "I have to be patient and trust in the process because it will pay off in the end."

Lehman's work ethic and willingness to learn is what sets her apart from most divers, according to Benson, but she also possesses aspects that are natural.

"She is the total package," Lehman said. "She is powerful and she is graceful, which you cannot teach."

In addition to excelling on the diving board, Lehman also strives for perfection in the classroom, having been named to the dean's list in every semester of her college career so far. She has also notched the JMU Athletics Director Scholar-Athlete Award twice, as well as the CAA Commissioner's Academic Award and was named a College Swimming Coaches Association of America All-American.

Lehman describes her passion for helping others as a catalyst to pursue a degree in public health with a minor in substance abuse prevention and public policy and administration.

"I've always been passionate about health and wellness," Lehman said. "As I've gotten older my passion for substance abuse has grown and I am interested in helping people realize different ways to have fun or do leisure activities without being under the influence because that is detrimental to your health and to your body."

With still a full season left in her diving career, there is still ample time for Lehman to add more medals to her collection and become the diver that Benson knows she can be.

"Olivia is one of a kind — not only is she one of the best divers I have ever seen, she is the best diver I've ever coached," Benson said. "She listens very well and she is constantly trying to get better. She's not anywhere close to how good she can be."

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SAM TAYLOR / THE BREEZE

Good on a path to greatness

Sophomore pitcher Megan Good ranked No. 21 on ESPNW Top 25 NCAA Softball Stars list



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Megan Good is 5-1 so far this season and boasts an ERA of 0.18.

By **BENNETT CONLIN**
The Breeze

Colonial Athletic Association Pitcher and Rookie of the Year, National Fastpitch Coaches Association second team All-American, four JMU single-season pitching records and two no-hitters. These are just a few of the many accomplishments sophomore pitcher Megan Good achieved during her freshman season.

When looking over these accolades, one might expect Good to have been a softball prodigy from an early age, but in reality, softball wasn't even her first sport.

"She was a volleyball player. That was her thing," head coach Mickey Dean said. "I think softball was something that she did because she was good at it and her friends did it."

Earlier this month, Good was ranked No. 21 on ESPNW's Top 25 NCAA Softball Stars list. While attending nearby Fort Defiance High School, Good broke both the Virginia High School League career kills and digs records with more than 1,000 in each statistic. Good's high school career resulted in her No. 3 jersey being retired by Fort Defiance. To top off all of those accomplishments, Good was also named an Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American for her performance during her senior season.

Due to her successes in volleyball, Good came to JMU for a camp to test out her skills against some of the Dukes. The multi-sport star was in for an unexpectedly rude awakening.

"I was the shortest one there," the 5-foot-11 Good laughed. "When I was playing with them, their setter blocked me and usually setters are kind of tiny, but she was like taller than me. It was kind of an eye-opener."

Luckily for Dean, Good turned her attention toward playing softball at JMU. After attending one of Dean's camps, Good knew JMU was the place for her.

"I went to a camp of Coach Dean's and he just made me feel at home," Good said. "It just felt right."

The most difficult challenge for Dean and his staff upon Good's arrival at JMU was to make the former volleyball star believe she had the chops to be one of the best softball players in the country.

"We brought her in and said, 'Look, we think you can be an All-American,'" Dean said. "Now I didn't know that it would happen during her freshman year. But we saw that in her."

One of the main reasons for Good's quick transformation into a top level collegiate softball player is the presence of senior pitcher Jailyn Ford. Ford, who was recently named NFCA and Amateur Softball

Association/USA National Collegiate Player of the Week, pushes Good in practice as the two close friends strive to be considered the ace of the staff.

"We're both kinda fighting for that same position," Ford said. "I think that pushes each one of us to work harder in a friendly aspect, too. It's not like I want to degrade her and she doesn't want to degrade me. We push each other to be better, not only for each other, but also for the team as a whole."

While both are competing against each other in a sense, they have no issues sharing some of their tips with the other.

"She has a strength that's my weakness and vice versa," Good said. "We like feed off each other so if I need to work on my curveball I can just ask her because that's one of her strengths, so we kind of help each other in that aspect."

The tandem has gotten off to a red-hot start this season as they've combined for a 9-1 record and both pitchers have ERAs under one. Opponents have struggled mightily this season against the two aces as they've mustered up just 28 hits in 64.2 innings, while striking out 70 times.

While Good and Ford get most of the attention, they, as well as Dean, are quick to credit senior catcher Erica Field for providing them with stability behind the plate. Field has a perfect fielding percentage during the young season and she's provided the pitching duo with plenty of offensive support as she leads the Dukes with 15 hits in 30 plate appearances.

"When people watch us play they say, 'Man, she's special,'" Dean said. "The pitchers always get the highlights, their names are in the paper. But then they see Erica and they're like, 'This kid's good' and I'm like, 'I told ya.'"

With the arguably one of the best starting pitcher tandems in the country, it's perhaps easy to understand the early season successes of the Dukes, who own wins over two Southeastern Conference powerhouses in No. 3-ranked Auburn University and No. 12-ranked University of Tennessee. Ford held Auburn's explosive offense to just two runs in a 3-2 JMU victory last Saturday. In the team's following two games, Auburn exploded for 18 runs in each game while defeating its opponents by a combined score of 36-1.

Next up, the Dukes host the Macado's Invitational beginning this Friday at 2:30 p.m. when they take on Binghamton University at Veterans Memorial Park.

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In 2015...

• 29-3, 1.05 ERA, 199 SO, 21 CG

• CAA Pitcher of the Year

• CAA Rookie of the Year

• First Team All-CAA

• JMU's first freshman All-American (NFCA Second Team)

ROSTER

All forwards

from front

“[The game] is a lot more physical here — players are quicker, faster and stronger,” Satkus said. “It’s a lot more individualistic whereas there’s more team play in Europe.”

All of the international players on the team are forwards — a position usually occupied by players 6 feet 7 inches and taller — and it’s not a coincidence.

“One of the things we struggle with at our level is to get the right frontcourt guys,” Brady said. “Young players with significant size and skill are hard to attract to schools at the mid-major level.”

The five foreign-born players on JMU’s roster: Vodanovich, Lukic, Cabarkapa, Satkus and junior forward Yohanny Dalember are all at least 6-foot-7-inches tall. When recruiting big men, Brady said that he and the coaches “cover every angle.”

“There’s nowhere we won’t go to try to find the right student athlete,” Brady said.

CONTACT Daniel Ware at waredt@dukes.jmu.edu.

Upcoming baseball schedule

Feb. 26-28

@ Clemson University

Clemson, S.C.

Mar. 1

@ George Washington University

Arlington, VA

Mar. 4-6

vs. UMBC

Harrisonburg, VA

A mound of hope

JMU baseball is confident that the starting rotation can have successful season



Redshirt senior right-handed pitcher Patrick Toohers throws a pitch during Sunday’s 9-1 loss against Bucknell University.

By MATT WEYRICH
The Breeze

While MLB pitchers have just begun reporting to spring training, the season is fully underway for the baseball Dukes and their starting rotation. After an opening weekend series with Bucknell University that saw the starters go a combined 1-1 with a 6.39 ERA, the team knows just how important it is to get quality starts out of the rotation.

Leading the way for JMU is redshirt senior left-hander Aaron Hoover (1-0, 1.50 ERA), who held the Bison to only one run on five hits over six innings of work Friday afternoon in the season opener. He led the team in strikeouts (51) and innings pitched (76.2) last season, and will look to be an anchor in the rotation once again in 2016.

After a disappointing season for a pitching staff that compiled a 7.33 ERA to go along with a last-place finish in the Colonial Athletic Association, the players have much higher expectations for this year with their new coaching staff.

“We only lost one pitcher from last year, so there’s really no excuse for lack of experience,” Hoover said. “I think the expectations for ourselves are pretty high.”

Sophomore left-hander Colton Harlow (0-0, 3.86) will be looking to make a name for himself as a starter this season after exclusively coming out of the bullpen in 2015. He went 4 2/3 innings in the first game of the Dukes’ doubleheader Saturday, and feels confident in his abilities moving forward.

“Knowing that you can get the job done and feeling like you have the power to do that gives you that sense of confidence in being able to dominate any hitter that steps in the box,” Harlow said.

One of the Dukes’ biggest struggles on the mound in 2015 was allowing too many free passes to hitters, with JMU pitchers combining to allow 266 walks and 88 hit batters on the season. While it remains to be seen whether they’ll be able to cut down on the walks, the members of the pitching staff are emphatic about keeping the ball in the zone this year.

Redshirt junior right-hander Brandon Withers (0-0, 6.75) was roughed up in his first outing of the year, allowing three earned runs on five hits, two walks and three strikeouts in the second game of Saturday’s doubleheader. Despite his performance, Withers is excited about what the season has in store for the Dukes.

“We have a lot of expectations for ourselves this season,” Withers said. “I think that as long as we take care of things we can control the rest will take care of itself.”

All three starters bring a unique skillset to the table. Hoover boasts the most experience, while Harlow is the youngest but has a feel for pitching late in games and had the lowest opponent batting average among any pitcher on the team last year with at least 40 innings thrown. Finally, Withers has displayed an uptick in velocity over the offseason that has coaches raving about what he has in store for 2016.

The Dukes take the diamond next at Clemson University Friday at 4 p.m.

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Conquering Columbia

JMU men’s club soccer team won tournament at the University of South Carolina last weekend



COURTESY OF ANDREW MICHON

JMU men’s club soccer competed in the Cocky Classic hosted by the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, last weekend. The Dukes emerged as champions boasting a record of 3-0-1.

By ANDRE HABOUSH
The Breeze

Returning from a victorious trip down in Columbia, South Carolina, JMU men’s club soccer didn’t lose a single game in a four-team tournament hosted by the Gamecocks.

This past Saturday and Sunday, the University of South Carolina men’s club soccer team invited JMU, Coastal Carolina University and the International Football Club to a two-day tournament. The event was organized and run by several South Carolina students.

All teams played one another on Saturday, and the top two teams advanced to the championship. JMU played three games and won two of them, and drew the Gamecocks, who they played the next day.

The Dukes vanquished the Gamecocks in a 3-1 victory and came back home with the first trophy of the Cocky Classic.

“We just truly felt we were one entity with a common goal,” community service chair Brian Potts, a junior computer information systems major, said. “We were on the same page. We were being respectful to the referees, to each other, nothing but positive feedback the whole time. Great physical and mental play — the ideal experience you would want from a team.”

With the high effort put in by the team members, they were able to play an aggressive and high-energy brand of soccer.

“We had the common goal of moving the ball quickly, and everyone was moving for each other off the ball, so it just looked like, everyone was on the same page, and the communication was great,” president Andrew Michon, a junior integrated science and technology major, said.

The team’s chemistry improved as players focus more on getting results rather than finding excuses for unsatisfactory outcomes. Although the team met its goal of going to the national tournament in Phoenix in the fall, its main season, it fell flat and didn’t advance out of group play.

“I think it says we’re an actual team for once, because in the past we’ve sort of [nagged] at each other, and in our view, it really translated to the poor performance on the field, but we finally came together and communicated and interacted well,” vice president Andrew Garrison, a junior management major, said.

The club funds itself through player dues, donations and funds allotted by University Recreation. In April, the team will play in its next tournament at UREC, and JMU will host six other teams plus JMU A and B teams.

“I would say [our goals are to] make it to the final, maybe win our tournament that we’re about to host in April and just continue working hard in practice, enjoy the outdoor weather after spring break,” Michon said. “I know we’re leaving to UPark after the spring break. Just keep the numbers high in training and keep competing friendlies in tournaments.”

The five members of the executive board plan for setting up those kinds of tournaments and traveling to others. The success of the latter tournament, especially, gives the largely sophomore and junior team optimism for the near future.

“Being a relatively young team, the showing we had at this tournament is going to be a good start for future games and tournaments,” Potts said. “I think next year, we’re going to have a lot of good senior leadership with a lot of good young players on our team, and I think that’s going to be a good energy that we’re going to continue forward next year as well.”

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HAWTHORNE

Professor's greyhound dog is a favorite among students

from front

program is Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, where Hawthorne still teaches today.

“To do that, I really had to re-educate myself at that stage,” Hawthorne said. “I was given a notebook that was about four inches thick of books just as if I was finishing another master’s degree. I had to show I mastered the material.”

And master he did. Hawthorne taught himself coding, which was a requirement in the old TSC program, from scratch.

Hawthorne has been a professor at JMU for so long that some of the other professors in the WRTC program were previously his students. Cindy Allen, who’s an instructor and internship coordinator in WRTC, got her master’s degree in TSC in 2004 and took several classes with Hawthorne.

“If he taught it, I took it,” Allen said. “Mark has a real pleasing way in the classroom. He’s a real renaissance man.”

Now that the two are co-workers in the WRTC department, Allen goes to Hawthorne for advice if she gets uncomfortable with changes in the program.

“He’s also the reason I may never retire,” Allen said. “As long as he keeps on keeping on, I don’t think I’m ever going to retire.”

Hawthorne wants to keep teaching as long as he’s mentally alert and able to be a challenge to his students.

“I’m 78,” Hawthorne said. “I plan to be around until my mid-80s at least.”

In the WRTC world, Hawthorne’s colleagues and students are well-acquainted with his greyhound, Friea.

Hawthorne and his husband, Wayne Reese, rescued her after she retired as a racing dog. The department regards her as a sort of mascot.

Reese has always loved animals and Hawthorne gives him credit for the small zoo they have in their home.

“I’ve always had animals since I was a little kid,” Reese said. “My parents would scream because I’d go to pet stores and bring them home.”

The couple recently adopted a new Eskimo Spitz puppy named Lyra, who made her debut on campus last week. They have snakes, lizards, geckos, sugar gliders, a chinchilla, cockatiels, parrots, finches and chickens at their home. Their friends who know they’re animal lovers have begun to turn their pets over to them when putting them down is the only other option.

“When students were moving out one year, we found a cockatiel on the grounds,” Hawthorne said. “We captured her and have her still.”

Reese and Hawthorne have been together for 34 years. They got married three years ago as soon as the legalization of same-sex marriage allowed them to.

“It’s been a wonderful difference in society,” Hawthorne said. “It’s a matter of being open and being honest.”

Hawthorne believes there’s nothing sadder than leading a life that isn’t true. He’s been openly gay since he was 12 years old, which was considered unusual for a boy in Savannah, Georgia.

“I got the hell kicked out of me in high school,” Hawthorne said. “That’s when I learned to fight. I guess I was brought up to be unfortunately too honest.”

But Hawthorne’s hardships don’t end with the homophobia he’s experienced. He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the central

nervous system, in the ‘90s. The disease has left him deaf in one ear and he walks with a cane, but he’s thankful he can walk at all.

“I woke up one morning completely paralyzed on one side,” Hawthorne said. “With MS, you have an exacerbation and then you can get rid of most of it.”

Thanks to the neurologists and good medical treatment he’s had access to, Hawthorne is still able to do his job, although he does start to experience fatigue by the end of the day in the classroom. He teaches classes in the early mornings.

“I don’t regard it as much of a handicap as some people,” Hawthorne said. “I just hope it doesn’t attack the thinking part of my brain.”

Over the course of his career, Hawthorne has published several scholarly articles and books. He’s also written seven novels, but he discarded all of them because they didn’t live up to his personal standards.

He lives by a philosophy that each person lives several lives over the course of their existence, and as they grow and change, the person they once were “dies” and reincarnates into someone new.

“I think I’ve been reincarnated many times,” Hawthorne said. “The things that happened in the past, that was another person.”

Although Hawthorne may have the experience and skills to write a book about himself, he claims he never will because he believes it would be like trying to describe the lives of several different people.

“How do you write an autobiography of someone who’s dead?” Hawthorne said.

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